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From Thursday September 15. to Saturday September 17. 1709.

At the Council-Chamber at Whitehall, *the 16th of* September, 1709.

PRESENT,

The Lords of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy-Council.

WHereas by a former Order of this Board, of the 14th of this Instant September, It was directed, that no Ship coming from the Baltick Sea be permitted to come into the River of Thames higher than the Nore, or such other Place as shall be appointed for making their Quarantain: Upon considering this Day at the Board a Report from the Commissioners of her Majesty's Customs, and the Commissioners of her Majesty's Navy, and of a former Report from the said Commissioners of the Customs; It is ordered in Council, That Stand-Gate Creek on the South Shoar of the River Thames for so many Ships as may safely ride there, and Sharpe-Fleet Creek for so many more as may with safety ride there; and if there shall be yet more than can safely ride in the said two Places, the lower end of the Hope, Be, as they are hereby accordingly appointed, for all Ships coming from the Baltick Sea, to make their Quarantain for forty Days, during which time no Passengers or Goods are to be suffered to go, or be put on Shoar; and that if at the Expiration of their Quarantain there shall appear to the Officers of her Majesty's Customs to be no Infection on Board, that then such Passengers be permitted to go on Shoar, but that the Goods be landed to be opened and aired, and so to remain a Week before they be brought to their Places of Discharge. And it is further ordered, that in case any of the said Ships shall have on Board any Linnen, Polonia Wooll, Hogs Bristles, Spruce Yarn, Feathers, Hemp or Flax, an account thereof be returned to this Board, for further Order concerning the same. And the Right Honourable the Lord High Treasurer of Great Britain, and the Right Honourable the Lord High Admiral of Great Britain are to give the necessary Directions herein, as to them shall respectively appertain.

Whitehall, September 14. Her Majesty having been informed by the Emperor's Envoy, Count Gallas, that several of the Palatines lately arrived in Great Britain hold Communion with the Church of Rome, Passes for the Transportation of many of them have thereupon been directed; and a Petition having also been presented to her Majesty in the Name of all the rest of them who are of that Persuasion, that they may be transported to Holland, in order to return to their own Country; Passes have been already granted to all those of that Communion that desired it. Her Majesty hath also given the necessary Orders for transporting the rest; and has been graciously pleased to allow twenty Shillings a Head for defraying the Charges of such their Transportation.

H. Bendysh.

Naples, August 27. *N. S.* Great Preparations are making in this Kingdom for an Expedition on Sicily. Reggio is appointed for the general Rendezvous of the Troops to be employed in this Service; and they have ordered the Ammunition and Artillery which are prepared in Calabria, to be conveyed to that Place. The Gentry of that Province have already raised four thousand Men for the carrying on this Enterprize; to them the Prince of Avellino hath added five hundred Men, and the Duke of Monteleone some other Forces of the Militia. A Squadron of English and Dutch Men of War is appointed for the Convoy of the Forces to be employed in the Descent; and there are already embarked six thousand Foot on our Tartanes, and other Transports, which are ordered to Sail towards the Coast of Sicily. It is reported, that all the necessary Measures for the Success of this Enterprize have been concerted with some Grandees of that Island. The late Commotions in Messina and Palermo, and the Uneasiness which is observed in several other parts of that Kingdom, animate our Forces, and (it is hoped) will contribute very much to the Reduction of it to his Catholick Majesty. The General Officers have prepared their Equipages, and are ready to set out for the Expedition. We hear that the King hath sent an Order for an Alteration of some of his Ministers in this Kingdom; but it is not particularly known what Changes will be made in the Administration. A Vessel belonging to Sardinia hath lately taken a French Tartane laden with Corn and Provisions bound for Marseilles.

Brussels, September 21. *N. S.* The last Letters from Paris advise, that they had received divers Expresses, with Accounts of the Motions of the Armies in Flanders since the Surrender of the Cittadel of Tournay. On the 9th Instant Mareschal Villars wrote to the King, that he had posted his Army so advantageously, that the Allies could not, without the greatest difficulties, undertake the Siege of Mons; that the Confederates having informed themselves of the situation of his Army, were advanced so near him that he could not retire without opening a very commodious Passage to the Allies, and that a Retreat would as much discourage his Troops as the Loss of a Battel; withal adding, that his Camp, of which he was possessed, was the strongest in all Flanders; and that he doubted not but to render it yet more advantageous, by casting up Retrenchments, and felling Trees for Barricadoes, before the Allies were joined by their Forces from Tournay, 'till which time he did not suppose they would give him Battel. On the 10th, at Night, that General dispatched another Express to his Majesty, with Advice, that a Battel was inevitable, of which he doubted not but to give his Majesty a Satisfactory Account. Since which several Couriers have passed from the Army in Flanders to Versailles, to acquaint the King with the Event of the late Battel near the Woods of Blagnies, Sart and Jansart. These Advices said, that the French Troops behaved themselves with great Gallantry in that Action, being animated by the Examples of the Mareschals Boufflers and Villars: That the Confederates were repulsed by their Right Wing two or three times; but rallied again, and continued the Fight with so much Obstinacy, that Mareschal Boufflers (who gave the necessary Instructions to the Army after Mareschal Villars was wounded) thought fit to retire towards Maubeuge, Bavay and Quesnoy. These Letters add, that the Number of the Poor People in Paris encreasing every Day, for want of Provision and Quarters for them in the Hospitals of that City, the King hath ordered a Proclamation to be Published, enjoyning the principal Burgesses of every Parish to make a Monthly Collection for the Subsistance of the Poor, from the first of October next. These Burgesses are to go from House to House, and take a Register of the Names of every Housekeeper within their respective Parishes; and to keep an exact Account of what is contributed to this Charity by every private Person; that if any refuse to give, or do not give according to their Ability, a Tax may be particularly imposed upon them. It is proposed to raise fifty

thousand